



# Sierra Pacific Industries

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VIA EMAIL: [board.public.comments@bof.ca.gov](mailto:board.public.comments@bof.ca.gov)

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: Kevin Conway, Staff Forester  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Comments on "Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project Exemption" – Proposed revisions to slash treatment requirements:

Dear Chair Gilles and Board Members:

Sierra Pacific Industries would like to support the current proposed rule language concerning revisions to the slash treatment requirements identified in the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project Exemption. The major purpose of developing and successfully implementing fuel hazard reduction in California is to entice landowners to actually participate in the program. We have seen with past Board efforts that narrowly focused hazard exemptions rarely get used if landowners perceive too many obstacles for successful implementation.

The current proposed rule language moving the slash reduction requirements from a 9" lopping standard to an 18" standard helps remove a significant obstacle that impedes landowners from implementing hazard reduction on their properties. The proposed rule language to "allow piles created after Sept 1 to be treated not later than April 1 of the second year following its creation or within 30 days following climatic access after April 1 of the second year following its creation" is also reducing a significant impediment to successful hazard reduction.

These combined refinements along with adding the four coastal counties to the Pilot Project could have significant public benefits by enticing landowners to actively participate in fuels reduction projects throughout California. We strongly encourage the Board to adopt the proposed rule language and continue to look for and develop regulatory actions that entice landowners to actively manage our forested landscapes to reduce fire hazards.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Walz

District Manager, RPF #2010